

Working for OUR community

Christopher Murphy

Aid for Towns in the 16th Senate District

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 16th State Senate District is ensuring Southington, Waterbury, Wolcott and Cheshire receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$15,911,371
Mashantucket & Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$6,171,670
Town Aid for Roads Grant (TAR)	\$730,291
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$1,756,306
Total Education Grants	\$142,235,381
Totals	\$166,805,019

*This funding
represents an
increase of
\$7,961,827 over
last year's total.*

I was pleased to help secure bonding money for many projects throughout Southington, Waterbury, Wolcott and Cheshire. Here are but a few of the projects:

- \$2,500,000 for congregate housing in Waterbury
- \$1,250,000 for railroad branch improvements
- \$9,000,000 for vo-ag center at Southington High School
- \$320,500 to Wolcott for extension of a public water main near Steele St. and Dale Ave.
- \$150,000 to Wolcott to purchase land near the golf course
- \$2,060,000 to the Naugatuck Valley Development Corp. for a multi-modal transportation center in Waterbury
- \$350,000 to Waterbury for improvements to Fulton and Hamilton Parks
- \$100,000 to Cheshire for a skate park
- \$1,227,000 to YMCA Waterbury for improvements to its downtown facility
- \$2,250,000 in loans for Cheshire businesses
- \$4,466,151 to the Southington Water Department to upgrade water main pipes

Announcing Senator Chris Murphy's 5th Annual Clothing Drive

Donate any usable clothing. The greatest demand is for winter coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves.



**Saturday, July 24th
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Wolcott Town Green**



SUMMER 2004

Dear Friend:

As I wrap up my first term as State Senator from the 16th District towns of Southington, Waterbury, Wolcott and Cheshire, I want to use this opportunity to say thank you for giving me this unique chance to make this State a little better place for all of us. This job has been everything I expected and more. At the Capitol, I've been able to be an advocate for the statewide issues I care most about—more accessible health care, a cleaner environment, lowering property tax burdens—while still remembering that my first job is to be a champion for my four towns. In the district, I've tried to do things a little differently by holding mobile office hours at supermarkets, organizing clothing and food drives, and trying to be as accessible as humanly possible to my constituents.

In this newsletter, I hope to do something that is unfortunately unexpected of an elected official—be honest. Inside, you'll find my report card on the recently concluded 2004 legislative session. I've included the good, the bad, and the mediocre, and I hope you will find it informative and interesting.

As always, if you have any questions about what you read here, or think there is any way in which I can be of service to you, please call my Capitol office at 1-800-842-1420.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be your State Senator, and thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Every best wish, warmly,

Christopher S. Murphy



From your State Senator

Christopher MURPHY

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I'm proud
to represent the
**16th Senatorial
district** which
includes the
communities
of **Southington,
Waterbury,
Wolcott
and Cheshire**

For my latest news, visit www.senatedems.state.ct.us/Murphy.html



State Senator
Christopher Murphy

CAUCUS WHIP
CHAIRMAN: Public Health
VICE CHAIRMAN: Aging; Judiciary
MEMBER: Appropriations



Representing Cheshire, Southington, Waterbury & Wolcott

The Press Room
Senator Murphy's corner of our Press Room includes recent press releases and his Press Kit.

Legislation
A list of bills introduced by Senator Murphy during the 2004 session can be found on the General Assembly Web site.

Newsletters
Senator Murphy's recent constituent newsletters (Adobe PDF format).
Waterbury Report (92k)
Winter District-wide (463k)
"Sin" Tax Issue (146k)

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ABOUT SENATOR MURPHY.....

State Senator Christopher Murphy represents the 16th

Look & Listen

VIDEO

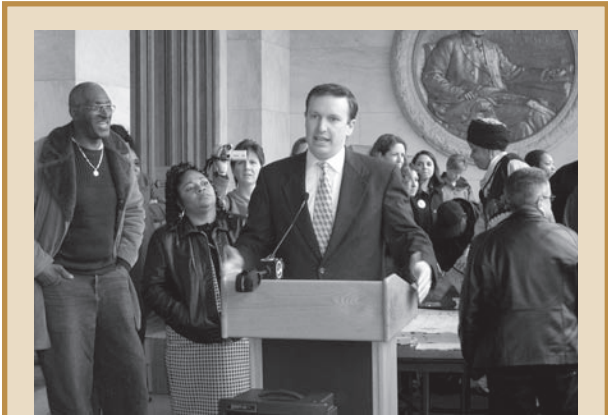
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STATE SENATOR

Christopher Murphy



Continuing to Work for Connecticut's Future



I co-sponsored the 4th Annual AIDS Awareness Rally and Lobby Day to draw attention to the crisis in Connecticut and to stress the need for more funding to provide additional services.



Students from around the state joined me at the Capitol this past February to speak out in support of environmental issues.

2004 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

TOO OFTEN THESE newsletters just trumpet the “successes” of the legislature. Well, let’s be honest—for as many good ideas that become law, there are two more that don’t make it to the finish line. I’m proud of what we accomplished this year, and I’m even more proud to have played a major role in several of our most significant victories. But there were disappointments, and I’ve tried to highlight in this report card both the wins and losses of the 2004 legislative session.



INCREASING OUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION FUNDING AND EASING PROPERTY TAXES

Protecting and enhancing education funding is one of the Senate Democrats’ highest priorities. Over the past couple of years, when our state budget was facing large deficits, we effectively fought against major cuts in education spending. And, this year we successfully fought to increase education funding by \$40 million—funding that will go a long way to helping municipalities meet the costs of providing top quality education while easing the local property tax burden.



REGULATING STEM CELL RESEARCH

Today’s medical innovations are changing the way we approach health and sickness. New, cutting-edge research has the potential to discover treatments and cures for diseases like diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, certain cancers, and multiple sclerosis. This remarkable research involves the use of embryonic stem cells. This session, I led the fight to place strict limits on stem cell research conducted in our state, while also sending a message that our state supports research that is conducted ethically and professionally. This legislation could have brought new, high-level jobs to our state, and, more importantly, the research conducted could save lives. Unfortunately, this measure did not become law this year.



RESTORING TRUST IN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Given the scandal and admitted misconduct of former Governor Rowland, it was clear legislation was needed to restore the public’s trust in government. I was proud to co-sponsor legislation that makes the Ethics Commission much stronger by increasing its membership and protecting its funding. The Ethics Commission is designed to weed out corruption and unethical conduct, and this bill finally gives it the protection and freedom to do its job that it has long deserved.

We also approved legislation that stiffens the penalties against those who violate the state’s ethics code. The bill increases the statutes of limitations for ethics violations, increases the civil penalties for such violations and doubles the time that the state has to bring action to void certain contracts that were the result of corruption. These are essential measures to restoring the public trust.



CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

This session I supported a comprehensive campaign finance reform proposal that if enacted into law would have significantly reduced the influence of special interests in government. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I voted in favor of this legislation that would have established a system for publicly funding campaigns for statewide office paid for by allowing taxpayers to voluntarily designate a small amount of their income tax return to a citizen’s election fund. Unfortunately, this bill was narrowly defeated in committee before it could be voted on in the House or Senate.



BRINGING CLEAN CARS TO CONNECTICUT

As the air quality in Connecticut has grown increasingly worse, asthma rates have continued to rise and the well being of our environment has been threatened. Although we have worked hard to alleviate this problem by reducing emissions from our state’s power plants, there is more that can be done. That’s why this session I championed a bill that would require vehicles to meet stricter emission standards, beginning with the 2008 model year. This legislation will help to reduce air pollution and allow Connecticut’s residents to breathe easier.



PRIORITIZING NURSING CARE

The high quality of Connecticut’s healthcare system is due in large part to our state’s devoted and caring nurses. This session as chairman of the Public Health Committee, I fought for passage of three bills to help maintain this excellent care, for now and into the future. Nurses and patients won a major victory with the passage of a bill prohibiting hospitals from forcing nurses to work exhaustingly long hours. This bill, which prohibits mandatory overtime except in certain cases, will help nurses and their families, while increasing patient safety. To ensure an adequate supply of nurses in the workforce, we passed a bill establishing a nursing faculty incentive program to encourage collaboration between our hospitals and institutions of higher learning and create more opportunities for experienced nurses to share their expertise with nursing students in training. Unfortunately, one bill I fought for, which would have increased federal reimbursement for nursing homes in our state, was not enacted into law. This bill would have allowed more money to go to nursing homes, to address the historically low wages and benefits paid to their healthcare workers.

